



Online Course in Plant Biosecurity (MOOCs Platform)



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PLANT HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India
Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) is a National level premier Institute under Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare), Government of India established in the year 1966 at Hyderabad. It became an autonomous body in the year 2008 with the expanded scope of promoting environmentally sustainable Plant Health Management (PHM) practices in diverse and changing agro-climatic conditions through capacity building programmes, besides providing inputs for policy formulation on plant health management, plant biosecurity, International market access, pesticide management *etc.* at National and International level.



Background Information:

India is rich in biodiversity with varied climatic conditions which is vulnerable to exotic invasive pest threats. The exponential expansion of trade in agricultural material leads to high incidence of exotic pest into India. The recent incursion of many invasive pests such as tomato pin worm (*Tuta absoluta*), rugose spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus*), fall army worm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and Bondar's nesting whitefly (*Paraleyrodes bondari*) make huge loss to farmers in terms of crop loss and management using chemical spray. Plant Biosecurity is of paramount importance to any country to safeguard food-security, sustainability of agricultural/ horticultural production and also in protecting livelihood of people. It has emerged as an urgent issue, which requires implementation of regulations, policies, enhancement of technological capabilities and human capacity building to meet such threats. Realizing the importance of plant biosecurity, NIPHM proposes to launch a 3 months certificate course in Plant Biosecurity.



Objective

The objective of the course is to create awareness about plant biosecurity, plant quarantine system, to combat invasive plant pest threats, to enhance technical capabilities and human capacity building to meet such threats and to enhance Sanitary and Phytosanitary compliance.

Salient features of the course

The course will be beneficial for the candidates in the following respects:-

- As an online course in an user-friendly manner under MOOCs platform
- Comprehensive coverage to cater the sectorial needs
- Availability of reading material for each subject covered under the course
- Comprehensive assessment of the candidates
- Online interaction with professionals for clearing the doubts of the candidates
- A certificate (on successful completion) from NIPHM for better employment prospects for the candidates

Eligibility criteria:	1. Essential Qualification: Graduate in any branch of science (Provisional or degree certificate has to be uploaded in support of claim) / pursuing final year in graduation in any branch of science (Bonafide study certificate issued by Head of the Institution / College has to be uploaded in support of claim). 2. The degree must be from a recognized Indian university 3. The degree must be from any Indian University incorporated by an Act of Central or State Legislature in India or other educational Institution established by an Act of Parliament or declared to be deemed University under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 4. In case the qualification of a candidate is from a foreign university, it must be recognized by government of India, as equivalent to a degree offered in India
Minimum age:	20 years
Course fee:	Rs. 1500/- 1. Fee for entire programme is Rs. 1500/- which is to be paid at the time of admission. 2. Fee is to be paid to NIPHM through RTGS (wire-transfer) after approval of registration for the course.

Course structure and contents:

The certificate course has 24 modules and will be offered in three months, every month 8 modules. Reading materials on each module covered under the programme will be provided to the students. The course will cover plant biosecurity, International regulatory framework, plant quarantine system, import legislation and regulation in India, import and export procedures for consumption, propagative material, bio-control agents and germplasm, post entry quarantine facility, impact of introduced pests, emerging threats, pest risk analysis, phytosanitary treatments, survey and surveillance, detection and diagnosis of insects, plant pathogens and weed seeds, pest incursion management, regional harmonization of phytosanitary measures to safeguard regional biosecurity.



Outcome:

The plant biosecurity concerns are at three levels, namely global, national and local levels and this course creates awareness at national and local level. It exposes the participants to plant biosecurity concepts, impact of invasive species and exotic pest threats to safeguard Indian Agriculture and forestry.

Important Events

Notification about admission	January 2019
Online registration and submission of applications	February 2019
Verification of application and confirmation of admission on receipt of payment	March 2019
Course commences	April 2019
Study period	3 Months



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