

Report of the Training Cum Workshop on Weed Risk Assessment of Parthenium Weed

An one day training cum workshop on the Risk Assessment of Parthenium Weed in Malaysia has successfully been completed at the Faculty of Agro Based Industry (FIAT), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Jeli Campus on 6 December 2016. Sixty trainees from SBS3 and SBS4 students of FIAT attended the training course. At the beginning of the training Prof. Dr. S. M. Rezaul Karim, Faculty of Agro Based Industry, UMK has given the introduction of the training focusing on the importance of risk assessment of parthenium in the country.



Among four trainers, one from Department of Agriculture, Mr. Ahmad Hisham Bin Abdul Rahim, District Agriculture Officer, Jeli, Kelantan (below in center) participated the program.



Mr. Hisham has explained the “Quarantine risk of parthenium weed and the role of Department of Agriculture in reducing the risk”. Dr. Norhafizah Binti Md Zain, Senior Lecturer, FIAT, UMK has described the “Risk of parthenium weed in Agriculture and in human health”. Prof. Dr. S. M. Rezaul Karim of FIAT explained the procedure of risk assessment using a software supplied to the trainees. The risk assessment is based on 49 questions related to biology, ecology, reproduction and propagation, dispersal of seeds, effects on crops, animals and human etc. of parthenium weed. Therefore, the lectures on different risk aspects of parthenium was helpful for the trainees to use the software in risk assessment. After the explanations given by the trainers the trainees have done their risk assessment in their own laptops by nine groups. Necessary helps during the use of software have been provided with the trainees. All the risk assessment reports from nine different groups of the trainees were collected for determining the mean of the risk scores. As per international standard of the risk scores of Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) the final risk of parthenium weed for Malaysia will be determined.



The Dean of the Faculty of Agro Based Industry, Dr. Fatimah Kayat has provided the certificates with the trainers, which were handed over to them by Mr. Mohamad Mahmud, Lecturer of Agro Based Industry, UMK.





The training was ended through presenting a souvenir to the external trainer of DOA, Mr. Ahmad Hisham by Prof. Karim.



The organizer of the training, Prof. Dr. S. M. Rezaul Karim, who is the Project Leader of the FRGS project on “Risk Assessment of Parthenium Weed in Batang Kali, Selangor and Sungai Petani, Kedah” has acknowledged the financial support of Ministry of Education, Malaysia for the training through the FRGS grant.