1. **Basic Information**

1.1. **Project Number:** Project 03  
   of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

1.2. **Twinning Number:** MT2002/IB-AG-02

1.3. **Title:** Capacity building at the Plant Health Department

1.4. **Sector:** Phytosanitary

1.5. **Location:** Malta

2. **Objectives**

2.1. **Wider Objective**

The objective is to establish the necessary mechanisms and conditions for protective measures against the introduction into Malta of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the territory of Malta (Dir. 2000/29), ensure food safety through legally recognised Maximum Residue Levels of pesticides (EU Dir. 91/414) and protect the rights of plant breeders (EU Reg. 2100/94).

2.2. **Immediate Objectives**

- To ensure the safe use of pesticide application for consumers, operators and the environment as laid down in EU Directive 91/414 and subsequent Directives.

- To become fully compliant with the Phytosanitary *Acquis* in the registration of pesticides by reorganising the process necessary for their authorisation. To restructure the present local procedures for the scientific evaluation of pesticides in line with the requirements of the European Union.

- To establish the certification and marketing of seeds and propagating material in conformity with Directive 66/401 and align with the EU Common Catalogue of varieties as per Directive 72/180, through the introduction and application of a new legislation.

- To control the introduction and spread of harmful organisms, in accordance to Directive 2000/29 and as laid down in the new Plant Quarantine Act.
• To finalise the required subsidiary legislation concerning the Quality of Seeds and Plants and aligning it to the EU Phytosanitary Acquis.

• To train the local personnel in conducting the necessary laboratory tests, carrying out field trials, relevant certification and registration.

2.3. **Accession Partnership and NPAA priority**

**Accession Partnership**

Includes the preparatory measures for implementing and establishing the administrative and technical structures to comply with the Phytosanitary Acquis.

**National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis**

The Plant Health Department is the designated authority for the national regulatory system for Phytosanitary matters. This Department operates the measures identified under the new Plant Quarantine Act (2001) that regulates the importation of certain plants from different origins. The Department has (a) to ascertain that importation of plants be as disease free as technically possible and (b) that it must be furnished with the necessary instruments to manage and control any possible spread of plant pests or disease. The Department is also responsible for the management of the new Pesticides’ Control Act (2001).

Regular surveys on the plant health status of the Maltese islands are carried out whilst advisory services are provided to growers on disease prevention, integrated pest management, application of plant protection products, fertilisers and irrigation techniques. Malta is an active member of EPPO and notifies interceptions and disease outbreaks to this organisation.

In order to implement the Acquis in this area, the existing human resources and equipment will need to be consolidated and enhanced.

3. **DESCRIPTION**

3.1. **Background and Justification**

Traditionally, investments have primarily focused on infrastructure such as the establishment of a quarantine station, the creation of diagnostic laboratories or the acquisition of equipment. This has sometimes created a vacuum in other areas such as institutional sustainability, regulatory mechanisms, and technical capacity. The traditional approaches in providing technical assistance and executing projects did not always achieve the desired results.

The reinforcement of the resources of the Plant Health Department, within the Ministry for Agriculture & Fisheries in Malta, is viewed as an investment and not as an expense. This specific technical assistance request is consistent with an overall approach to modernising the sector to meet Malta’s obligations as laid out in the Phytosanitary Acquis of the European Union. The Project will be headed by a Project Leader who
would co-ordinate all activities and assist in the logistics for the implementation of the Phytosanitary Acquis.

Building a sustainable institutional framework, promoting leadership and fostering articulation between the public and private sectors is viewed as an effective way to comply with the Directives of the Phytosanitary Acquis. The success lies in defining functions and responsibilities in an innovative way. The strategic aim of this project is a balanced approach to strengthen technical capacity, regulatory mechanisms and institutional sustainability. The institutional structure must be strengthened to include research and technical cooperation as well as other actors.

Malta has agreed to adopt the Acquis Communautaire on the date of accession to the European Union. The Phytosanitary sector in the EU is highly regulated in the framework of the Single Market. The main objective of the Single Market is to encourage free trade while at the same time respecting the quarantine safeguards of Member States. Furthermore, it endeavours to harmonise measures to ensure the safety of food through the safe use of pesticides as well as to protect the rights of plant breeders. The Phytosanitary Acquis is implemented through different mechanisms such as: (1) common quarantine measures in respect to third country goods; (2) food safety through the observation of pesticides’ maximum residue levels; and (3) the harmonisation of seed and propagating plant material testing and protection of new plant varieties.

The infrastructure, staff recruitment and training, as well as the adoption of the harmonised procedures must be in place prior to accession.

**Current Situation in Malta**

- **Plant Health Laboratories**

The Plant Health Department possesses the facilities of four laboratories and a fifth one is to be constructed during this current year.

The Chemistry laboratory is equipped for the testing of soil, water and animal feeds. It also carries out colorimetric tests for aflatoxin detection.

The Biology laboratory deals with insect and nematode pests as well as mycological diagnosis. Bacterial identifications through media culture techniques are also employed in this laboratory.

The Virology laboratory deals mainly with the identification of viruses, viroids and virus-like diseases. Through the use of Polymerase Chain Reaction, molecular hybridisation and other molecular techniques the facilities at this lab will in the immediate future be used for the serological and molecular diagnosis of bacterial diseases.

The Tissue culture laboratory is responsible for the sanitation of plants and the multiplication of certified plants. It is also involved in the clonal selection of local varieties.
The new lab that is to be erected will be dedicated for the testing of seeds. The procedures followed in this lab together with field trials will test seeds for germination, distinctiveness, uniformity and stability.

There is no laboratory within the Plant Health Department to test for pesticides’ residues in crops. Crop residue analysis is presently being carried out by sending samples abroad for analysis. It is the intention to start testing for these residues locally as soon as the new National lab starts operating in the coming months.

**Border Inspection Posts**

The Plant Quarantine Service at present operates through a centrally placed station on the main island of Malta. Four inspectors and two scientific officers man this Station. The Plant Health inspectors carry out their inspections at the ports, airport or at the nurseries when notified by Customs of any import of plants or plant material. It is the intention to build three Border Inspection Posts at the Grand Harbour in Valletta, at the Freeport in Kalafrana and at the Airport in Luqa and to have these BIPs fully functional by June 2002. The setting up of BIPs is laid down mainly in Commission Directive 98/22/EC and other EU Directives concerning the Phytosanitary Acquis. Such posts, while requiring more staff, would facilitate the system of controlling imports from third countries. Interceptions from third countries would be notified as per Directive 94/3.

Presently, there are no Phytosanitary BIPs set up. Malta needs all the possible help concerning the layout design, equipment and facilities needed, training of staff, as well as the organisation set-up and administration of these BIPs.

3.2. **Linked Activities**

- Over the past few years a drive was made to follow Government’s policy of e-government. New personal computers, including CD-drives, printers, scanners and so forth, were installed in all offices and laboratories and these were linked to the Internet and an e-mail account established for each officer. Where possible a local area network was established.

- A special report was commissioned at the beginning of year 2000 to draw up the necessary human resource structure in the top echelons of the Plant Health Sector. As a result the Sector was upgraded into a Department and recruitment of scientific staff commenced immediately and is still going on.

- A fact-finding visit to Malta by TAIEX experts in the various disciplines of the phytosanitary field took place in November 2000 and after assessing the situation a report was drawn up.

- The Pesticides (Control of Importation, Sale and Use) Act of 1966 has been replaced with a new legislation – the Pesticides’ Control Act that has been enacted in Parliament (March 2001).

- Edible crops are at present being monitored for pesticides residues by sending samples over to the Central Science Laboratory, UK for multi-residue analysis. This is being carried out until a local laboratory is established for the carrying out of these tests.
• As the legislation concerning seeds and plant propagating material is not regulated through any specific legislation it is being proposed to enact new regulations for this purpose. A first draft of these new regulations on the control of the quality of seeds and propagating material has been drawn, but it is felt that expert advice is needed before submitting the final version for the Minister’s approval. These regulations would also include provisions for the efficient administrative procedures within a Plant Variety Office for the protection of plant breeders’ rights.

• To be in a position to abide by all the new seed legislations as transposed from the EU Acquis a need was felt to invest in the construction of a new seed-testing laboratory. The quantified costs for the construction of this new laboratory were calculated to be EURO 80,000. This laboratory would then need to be fully equipped on the recommendations of the seed expert to be sent to Malta in week 43 of 2001.

• The Agriculture (Plant Protection) Act of 1966 has been upgraded to conform to the EU Acquis and a new Plant Quarantine Act has been enacted by Parliament (July 2001).

• Over the past five years the Malta Government, partly with the funds provided under the 4th Italo-Maltese Financial Protocol has set up a new Plant Biotechnology Centre in Lija, Malta at a cost of EURO 2.5 million. This new Centre was essential in the detection of plant viruses and virus-like organisms and in the detection of bacterial and phytoplasma harmful organisms by means of serological and molecular techniques. This Centre would be the backbone in establishing certification schemes and in clonal selection, by means of DNA techniques, of Maltese plant varieties.

• In November 2001 two officials from the Plant Health Department are to attend a specially arranged training at the Central Science Laboratory, UK for the detection of plant bacterial diseases that are of concern in the EU.

• A visit to Malta by a TAIEX expert in the field of harmful organisms took place in February 2000. Following this visit the head of the Phytosanitary sector visited various institutions in France in June 2000. France sponsored both visits.

• In February 2001, TAIEX organised the 5th Meeting of the Working Group for Heads of Phytosanitary Services of EU candidate countries in Bratislava. This was a follow up to the 4th Meeting that was held in Rome the previous May. The head of the Phytosanitary Services in Malta participated at both meetings.

• For the three-year period 2001-2003 the Malta Government has provided EURO 2.5 million for the setting up of Border Inspection Posts (Phytosanitary & Veterinary). The sites were these Border Inspection Posts are to be established have been identified and currently plans are being drawn up.

• TAIEX organised a conference on the “Free Movement of Goods and People at Ports” in Bremen, Germany in December 2000. This conference was organised for the benefit of candidate countries. Malta was represented at this Conference.

• In March 2001, TAIEX organised a workshop in Brussels on Border Inspection Posts. During this workshop that was also attended by a Maltese delegation the experts gave concrete proposals regarding Phytosanitary BIPs that were not so clear from the relevant Directives.
• During the above workshop it was proposed to organise a visit to the Spanish BIPs for a Maltese delegation. This is to be funded through TAIEX.

3.3. Results

• This Project will contribute to update subsidiary legislation of the Pesticides’ Control Act.
• This Project will contribute to update the registration system for Plant Protection Products.
• An enhanced assessment of the pesticides’ products before placing them on the market.
• An improved system for the interpretation and evaluation of pesticides’ residues analysis and the ensuing appropriate action to be taken according to Council Directive 91/414.
• A reviewed monitoring programme for the Maltese Islands.
• Establishing the Maximum Residue Levels for products according to the local National Intake Assessment and the Toxicological End Points.
• Setting up assessment criteria for pesticides’ Acceptable Operator Exposure Levels.
• Evaluation of the effects of pesticides on the environment (non-target flora and fauna, water, soil and air).
• Competence to evaluate the efficacy of pesticides using the toxicological data and the toxicological end points.
• Established alternative applications of pesticides for the substitution of the use of Methyl bromide.
• Trained officials in the Rapid Alert System according to Directive 94/3.
• A Seed Certifying Body.
• A well-designed and fully functional seed-testing laboratory
• Standard Operating Procedures for field inspection and sample taking, seed testing and labelling.
• A database of local and imported seed varieties.
• Updated subsidiary legislation of the Plant Quarantine Act.
• Scientific surveys for the mandatory monitoring for *Clavibacter michiganensis ssp. sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* bacterial diseases.
• Systematic monitoring for harmful organisms.
• A working manual for the guidance of plant quarantine inspectors.
• Official registration of producers, importers, etc. according to EU Directive 93/50 and adopting the correct procedures to ensure observance of obligations as per Directive 92/90;
• A proper plant passporting system according to Directive 92/105;
• Sound and practical Border Inspection Posts as per Directive 98/22.

• An established administrative, technical and scientific capacity that is required to implement the Phytosanitary Acquis.

3.4. Activities

Successful implementation of this project anticipates twinning assistance from one or more EU Member State/s and the presence of a Pre-Accession Advisor for the duration of the project. He or she will need a sound knowledge of Phytosanitary measures and experience in such projects for the achievement of all project objectives in terms of what is expected of candidate countries in the Phytosanitary field. Short-term experts will support the PAA.

More broadly the project will include the following activities.

**Horizontal:**

• Advise on the full requirements relating to the institutional capacity building including human resources requirements together with their related duties for the set-up of the organisational structure.

• Advise and programme immediate future activities of the Plant Health Sector in conformity with EU requirements.

• Advise and design an efficient strategy for tapping the existing data sources for the building of the required registration and transmission system in an efficient and effective way.

• Advise on the building of a reference library to back up procedures to be followed in compliance with the Phytosanitary Acquis.

**Pesticides:**

• The expert would review the current Pesticides’ Control Act and subsidiary legislation and recommend amendments accordingly to be fully updated and in compliance with the Phytosanitary Acquis.

• Review and advise on the current pesticide residue monitoring programme for the Maltese Islands.

• Advise on an updated registration system, including required technical dossier submission, for Plant Protection Products and Biocides. Presently, there are about 750 Plant Protection products and 1250 Biocidal products registered by the Department of Plant Health.

• Advise and train personnel in the evaluation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides and how to extrapolate known foreign data to assess the toxicity and danger hazard of an unknown new product when applied to local conditions.

• Advise and train personnel on the interpretation and evaluation of pesticides’ residues analysis and the ensuing appropriate action to be taken according to Council Directive 91/414.
• The expert would establish the Maximum Residue Levels for products according to the local National Intake Assessment and the Toxicological End Points.

• The expert would set up the assessment criteria for the pesticides’ Acceptable Operator Exposure Levels.

• The expert would set up the criteria to be followed for the evaluation of the harmful effects of pesticides on the environment.

• The expert would advice and implement training of staff for the competence in evaluating the efficacy of pesticides using the toxicological and ecotoxicological data.

• The expert would advice and implement alternative methods for the substitution in the use of Methyl bromide.

• The expert would provide training in the implementation of the Rapid Alert System.

**Quality of Seeds and Plants:**

• The expert would review the subsidiary legislation concerning the Quality of Seeds and Plants under the current Plant Quarantine Act and recommend amendments accordingly to be fully updated and in compliance with the Phytosanitary Acquis.

• The expert would help and advice in the setting up of a Seed Certifying Body.

• Identify, advise on the handling of and implement the procurement of additional necessary laboratory equipment required in the various laboratories and especially in the new Seed Testing Laboratory.

• Devise and implement a training programme for the setting up of laboratory procedures according to good laboratory practice.

• The expert would establish a manual on the standard operating procedures to be followed for field inspections and sampling and labelling of seeds.

**Harmful Organisms:**

• The expert would review the current Plant Quarantine Act and subsidiary legislation and recommend amendments accordingly to be fully updated and in compliance with the Phytosanitary Acquis.

• Devise and implement a training programme for the setting up of laboratory procedures according to good laboratory practice.

• Design a strategy and tactical procedures for the implementation of a plant passporting system according to EU Directive 92/105.

• Design a strategy, and supervise its logistical implementation, on an information campaign (including workshops and seminars) to all stakeholders involved in plant passporting.

• Advise on the carrying out of scientific surveys and testing procedures for the monitoring of *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* bacterial diseases.
• The expert would establish a *vademecum* to be used for the systematic monitoring of harmful organisms.

• The expert would identify and procure further essential equipment and facilities that must be in place at each of the identified three Border Inspection Posts.

3.5. **Equipment**

Additional necessary laboratory equipment required in the various laboratories, and especially in the new Seed Testing Laboratory, will be identified by the Twinning Team, that will also advice on the handling of and implementation the procurement.

4. **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

A re-organisation exercise was recently commissioned in the Plant Health Sector. The study identified the obligations arising from the Phytosanitary Acquis and sought to address these obligations by making recommendations for the recruitment and training of scientific staff. Since then calls for the filling of new posts for scientific staff have been issued and new recruits are being engaged. Meanwhile, re-training of existing staff went on and new training courses are being programmed to address particular needs arising from the mandatory requirements of the EU Directives.

The Institutional Framework within the Department of Plant Health has to cater for the needs of the various stakeholders. Growers, who are the main beneficiaries, must be supported with technical advice while being made aware of their obligations arising from the legislation. Similarly, exporters and importers of plants and plant products must be assisted in their endeavours to ensure a harmonised system with the rest of the Member States. Border Inspection Posts must function efficiently and effectively to ensure that plant quarantine organisms from third countries do not enter Malta in the first place and subsequently in the rest of the Community. Consumers must be safeguarded that they are consuming crops that are free from unacceptable pesticide residue levels and other contaminants. While at the same time ensuring operators’ safety in the application of pesticides and protection of the natural environment. Growers must be assured that they are procuring good quality and certified seeds and plant propagating material while plant breeders must have their rights protected.

The Department of Plant Health in its daily work liases with not only with other sectors within the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries but also with other Government Departments such as that of Public Health, Protection of the Environment, Occupational Health, Statistics, Water Services as well as with other interested stakeholders such as growers, co-operatives, importers and exporters, Malta Standardisation Authority, University as well as the general public.
ORGANIGRAMME OF PLANT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DIRECTOR

Chief Scientific Officer (Regulation & Education)

Chief Scientific Officer (Diagnosis & Research)

Principal Scientific Officer (Diagnosis & Control)

Principal Scientific Officer (Research & Development)

Principal Scientific Officer (Inspection & Registration)

Biology & Chemistry Labs

Plant Biotechnology Centre

Plan Quarantine

4 Scientific Officers
1 Pharmacist
2 Agricultural Officers
2 Technicians
1 Clerk

2 Scientific Officers
2 Senior Agric. Officers
2 Agric. Officers
2 Technicians
2 Clerks

1 Principal Agricultural Officer
2 Scientific Officers
2 Foremen (inspectors)
1 Agric Inspector
1 Principal Officer
5. **DETAILED BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Components</strong></th>
<th><strong>EU Support (indicative values in Euros)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Investment Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Building &amp; Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Software</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Malta funds will be used for the refurbishment of the premises and the purchase of the bulk of the equipment required to set up the laboratory. The national budget is also addressing the recruitment of additional scientific personnel.

6. **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

6.1. **Implementing Authority**

Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Barriera Wharf, Valletta, CMR 01, Malta

The Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries will be the overall implementing authority that will be exercised through a steering committee composed of the Permanent Secretary, the Director-General (Agriculture), and the Director (Plant Health). The Director (Plant Health) will be the executing authority for this committee.

Contact Person: Mr. Victor Farrugia Director (Plant Health) at the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Barriera Wharf, Valletta, CMR 01 Malta
Tel: 00356 225236 / 435898 Fax: 00356 , 244503 / 433112
e-mail: victor.farrugia@magnet.mt

6.2. **Twinning**

A twinning arrangement will be sought for the implementation of the activities. The PAA will be based at the Plant Health Laboratories, Research & Development Centre, Ghammieri, Marsa.

The PAA must study the realities of Maltese agriculture for the successful set-up and implementation of the necessary changes. He/she must possess the required skills and long experiences on Phytosanitary matters. He/she must be versatile with the EU regulatory regime of this Chapter, and must preferably already been engaged on such a project in one of the Member States. He/she will work in close co-ordination with the
Director (Plant Health) and his scientific staff and the Steering Committee at the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Project leader will possess:

- General knowledge and experience of strategic planning and programme monitoring techniques;
- Seasoned knowledge of project management and methodologies;
- Skilled judgement and the ability to set priorities and make decisions;
- Ability to evaluate policy issues and deliver innovative recommendations and effective solutions;
- Ability to work reliably and prioritise competing demands.

6.3. Non-standard aspects

There are three main areas where STEs (for medium-term duration) will be required:

- **Pesticides**

The Maltese legislation “Pesticides’ Control” Act covers both plant protection products as well as biocides. The obligations that Malta has to abide by upon accession are wide and far-reaching. A new lab is being set up for pesticides’ residues analysis but data would have to be interpreted, evaluated and appropriate action taken.

The terms of reference for the expert in this field would be:

- To suggest additions or amendments to the subsidiary legislation on the Pesticides’ Control Act
- To create a monitoring programme for the Maltese Islands
- To make recommendations on the registration and authorisation of products according to residue evaluation and the potential intake
- To advise on the fixing of MRLs for products according to the local ADI and toxicological end points
- To instruct on the assessment of the Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AOELs), the toxicological End Point
- To establish procedures for Risk Assessment based on documents, toxicological effects, routine monitoring, surveys, ADI, End Point, Acute Reference Dose and MRLs
- To train Maltese officials in operating the Rapid Alert System as practised in the EU
- To evaluate the effects of pesticides on the environment (non-target flora and fauna, water, soil and air)
- To indicate evaluation procedures that should be applied for registration of plant protection products and biocides
- To prescribe as how to extrapolate data to assess the toxicity and danger hazard of unknown new products
- To instruct on the use of the toxicological data and toxicological end point for efficacy evaluations
- To make feasible recommendations on the alternative applications of pesticides for the substitution in the use of Methyl bromide
To assess the administrative, technical and scientific capacity required to implement the Phytosanitary Acquis in this sector

The knowledge derived by means of this programme would result in a better assessment of the pesticides’ products before placing them on the market.

• **Seeds and Plants**

At present there is no appropriate legislation concerning Seeds and Plants. Some aspects are covered through other legislation in a general way. An expert is being requested, therefore, to help draft a new legislation in conformity to EU secondary legislation, but with safeguards to our specific scenario.

The expert would also advise on the:

- establishment of a seed Certification Authority
- setting up of a seed testing lab
- procedures for field inspections and sample gathering
- appropriate methods for seed testing and labelling according to international procedures
- setting up of a Plant Variety Office and administrative procedures for the protection of plant breeders’ rights
- planning of a programme for the implementation of EU regulations concerning seed and certified plants production
- setting out of conditions for the importation of basic and certified seeds
- listing of local seed varieties
- devising of a database for seeds and plants imported and produced locally
- assessing the administrative, technical and scientific capacity required to implement the Phytosanitary Acquis in this sector

• **Harmful Organisms**

The control of the introduction and spread of harmful organisms is laid down in the new “Plant Quarantine” Act. This Act has been drawn up in conformity to EU requirements.

An expert in this field is being requested to establish the correct procedures to abide by the Phytosanitary Acquis in the field of harmful organisms. The terms of reference for this expert would be as follows:

- to advise on any additions or amendments necessary to the subsidiary legislation of the Plant Quarantine Act
- to establish the requirements necessary for Malta to establish itself as a protected zone for three quarantine organisms
- to advise on the proper way to conduct mandatory surveys for *Clavibacter michiganensis* ssp. *sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* bacterial diseases
- to draw up a manual for the guidance of plant quarantine inspectors
- to suggest necessary equipment and literature needed
- to establish procedures for the registration of growers for the purposing of plant passporting, carrying out of surveys and monitoring of harmful organisms
– to advise on the setting up of Phytosanitary Border Inspection Posts
– to assess the administrative, technical and scientific capacity required to implement the Phytosanitary Acquis in this sector

6.4. Contracts

The twinning Covenant will represent the main contract for the project, which covers the costs of the PAA and short-term TAs.

Any other contracts for supplies, works and services will be concluded in accordance with the procedures laid down in the “Practical guide to EC external aid”.

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Start of tendering: April 2002
Start of Project Activity: October 2002
Project Completion: June 2004

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Ministry of Agriculture is an equal opportunity employer.

9. ENVIRONMENT

As a result of more accurate monitoring of the Good Agricultural Practice in the use of pesticides, there will be a net benefit to the environment as non-target organisms would be spared.

10. RATES OF RETURN

Not applicable.

11. INVESTMENT CRITERIA

11.1. Catalytic Effect

Assistance from the EU will result in a significant effect in helping to establish the new Plant Health Laboratory.

11.2. Co-financing

National co-finance will cover the costs for the refurbishment of the premises and the purchase of the bulk of the equipment required for the initial set-up of the laboratory. It will also cover costs related to recruitment of additional scientific personnel.
11.3. Additionality

No other financiers will be displaced by the EU intervention.

11.4. Readiness

Implementation is conditional on the establishing of the Plant Health Laboratory.

11.5. Sustainability

Not applicable

11.6. Competition

Services and equipment will be procured in line with EU regulations.

12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

The required final drafting of the subsidiary legislation concerning Pesticides’ Control and Plant Quarantine would finish on schedule.

Sufficient managerial and technical human resources allocated to the Plant Health Department.

ANNEXES

I Logframe planning matrix

II Implementation time schedule

III Cumulative contracting and disbursement schedule

IV Reference to feasibility/pre-feasibility studies

V Relevant Laws and Regulations
## LOG-FRAME PLANNING MATRIX - PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY BUILDING IN MALTA

### Project Nber:
Project 03 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

### Contracting Period Expires:
30 April 2004

### Disbursement Period Expires:
30 April 2005

### Total Budget:
850,000 €

### EU Contribution:
850,000 €

### Wider Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Source of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To consolidate the Phytosanitary Sector within the Ministry for Agriculture &amp; Fisheries in Malta to enable it to meet its obligations arising from the EU Phytosanitary Acquis.</td>
<td>Required legislation coming in force, operational and fully implemented.</td>
<td>Lab testing facilities operating according to standard operating procedures. Plant Quarantine interceptions and notifications. Pesticides’ residues monitoring programme established.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Immediate Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Source of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To ensure the safe use of pesticide application for consumers, operators and the environment.</td>
<td>Monitoring surveys for pesticides’ residues in crops. To set up a seed-testing laboratory and have it fully operational and carrying out field trials according to the principles of DUS. To set up the Border Inspection Posts and conduct mandatory monitoring surveys for harmful organisms.</td>
<td>Ring testing for Pesticides’ residues testing. A well-equipped and fully functional laboratory and properly conducted field trials. Border Inspection Posts in place and results of surveys and lab testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Indicators of Achievement</td>
<td>Source of Verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>An updated Phytosanitary Service as required by the Community.</td>
<td>Technical or professional staff needed recruited and trained.</td>
<td>Trained staff can positively represent Malta in international projects;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An updated growers’ and importers’ Registration System</td>
<td>All other staff needed recruited and trained.</td>
<td>Participation in ring testing for pesticides’ residues;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A National Herd Book as required by the System</td>
<td>All Maltese producers and importers are informed with the new system systems;</td>
<td>Comparing diagnostic results with those of other laboratories in other countries;</td>
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<td>An integrated and comprehensive database for the interpretation and</td>
<td>Proof testing the system and make any amendments that are deemed necessary;</td>
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<tr>
<td>evaluation of pesticides’ residues;</td>
<td>Carrying out an intensive information campaign encompassing meetings, seminars,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A pool of trained officers to maintain and run the Phytosanitary Service;</td>
<td>training of extension service staff and media campaigns;</td>
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<td>The procurement of the appropriate relevant hardware and knowledge;</td>
<td>A well-organised Plant Passporting system is in place and fully functional;</td>
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<tr>
<td>The growers and importers are made aware about the new inspection and</td>
<td>Laboratory testing and field trials are carried out according to scientific procedures;</td>
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<tr>
<td>plant passporting procedures, their requirements and benefits through</td>
<td></td>
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<td>an information campaign.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Seed Certification Authority together with seed testing facilities;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>Indicators of Achievement</td>
<td>Source of Verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To advise on the full complement of the institutional/capacity building and human resources; To programme training needs for the implementation of the system as well as advise on their achievement; To design a strategy, and supervise its logistical implementation, on an information campaign (including workshops and seminars) to all stakeholders in the agricultural sector; To advise and design an efficient strategy/strategies for tapping the existing data sources, ensuring the completion of the required databases in an efficient and effective way; To ensure that the subsidiary legislation and procedures being adopted are in conformity with the EU Directives; To advice on the procurement of necessary literature and laboratory equipment needed in the various laboratories;</td>
<td>Fully manned and well trained personnel in the Phytosanitary Sector; Facilities and resources procured and fully functional; Correct standard operating procedures being adhered to; Subsidiary legislation being updated to include provisions of the last Directives;</td>
<td>No complaints as to the reliability of regulating the Sector; Tests and notifications carried out within a short time; Monitoring surveys carried out regularly to ensure control of pests and diseases; Full harmonisation with other Member States on the adoption of the Acquis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### IMPLEMENTATION TIME SCHEDULE

**PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY BUILDING IN MALTA**

Project 03 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Components</td>
<td>D D D T T T T T I I I I I I I I I</td>
<td>I I I I I I I I I I I I</td>
<td>I X X X X X X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**D:** Design  
**T:** Tendering and contracting  
**I:** Implementation  
**X:** Closure
## CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE OF EU FUNDING

**PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY BUILDING IN MALTA**

Project 03 of the 2002 National Pre-accession Programme for Malta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30/6</td>
<td>30/9</td>
<td>31/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbursed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
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</table>
As far back as 1988 Malta realised the need for strengthening the Phytosanitary Sector within the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries. A Technical Co-operation Project funded by FAO was carried out to strengthen the capabilities within the Phytosanitary Sector.

M. Gilbert Theissen made the first preliminary study of Malta’s needs ever made by a TAIEX consultant during his visit to Malta in February 2000.

The justification for this Project comes from a report submitted by the TAIEX consultants as a result of their findings when they came over to Malta in November 2000.

Moreover, the Technical Consultations Meeting that was held in Malta in July 2001 emphasised the need for further collaboration with other Member States.
ANNEX V

RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS