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International  
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Convention

## **REPORT**

# **32nd Technical Consultation among RPPOs (Virtual Meeting No 1)**

**Rome, Italy  
3 December 2020**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

### **1.1. Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat**

- [1] Mr Brent LARSON, IPPC Secretariat welcomed all the participants to the first in the series of virtual meetings of the 32nd TC-RPPOs.

### **1.2. Welcome by the TC-RPPOs Chairperson**

- [2] Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH, Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) welcomed all participants as the chairperson of the TC-RPPOs. She thanked the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA, for his work as past Chairperson. She stressed that importance of gathering all RPPOs at this meeting, and thanked the participants who had made time to attend.

## **2. Meeting arrangements**

### **2.1 Selection of a Rapporteur**

- [3] The TC-RPPOs elected Mr Nico M. HORN from EPPO as Rapporteur.

### **2.2 Adoption of the agenda**

- [4] The proposed agenda<sup>1</sup> was presented and Ms. Stephanie BLOEM from NAPPO suggested adding an agenda item regarding the International Society for Pest Information under “Any other business”.

- [5] The agenda was adopted as presented in Annex 1.

## **3 Administrative matters**

### **3.1 Documents list**

- [6] The following documents were posted for this meeting:
- VM01\_01\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Agenda
  - VM01\_02\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Participants\_list
  - VM01\_03\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Sharing experiences and useful tools
  - VM01\_04\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Update\_proposal for IDPH
  - VM01\_05\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Contingency\_Planning
  - VM01\_06\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Contingency\_Planning\_EPPO

### **3.2 Participants list**

- [7] The participants list<sup>2</sup> was presented. The following participants were in attendance:

RPPO representatives:

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<sup>1</sup> VM01\_01\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Agenda

<sup>2</sup> VM01\_02\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Participants\_list

Mr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA (IAPSC)      Mr. James PAZO (COSAVE)  
 Mr. Mekki CHOUIBANI (NEPPO)              Mr. Fermin BLANCO (OIRSA)  
 Mr. Yubak Dhoj G. C. (APPPC)              Ms. Juliet GOLDSMITH (CAHFSA)  
 Mr. Nico M. HORN (EPPO)                  Ms. Stephanie BLOEM (NAPPO)  
 Mr. Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA (CAN)  
 IPPC Secretariat staff:  
 Mr Brent LARSON                              Mr Mirko MONTUORI  
 Ms Natsumi YAMADA                        Mr Edgar MUSHEGYAN  
 Mr. Visoni TIMOTE (PPPO) did not attend.

Full contact details for the RPPOs can be found on the IPP<sup>3</sup>.

#### **4. List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics**

##### **4.1 Sharing experiences of RPPOs on interactions and useful tools**

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat presented the paper<sup>4</sup> on this topic and an animated PowerPoint presentation that introduced the functions of Zoom, which is a tool used by the IPPC Secretariat to conduct virtual meetings, was also presented. EPPO and NAPPO noted that some countries are not allowed to use Zoom. The IPPC Secretariat pointed out that the 2020 IPPC Regional Workshops were held using Zoom without complaints, and that it is also possible to participate in Zoom meetings using smartphones. Zoom also has an easy-to-use poll tool. NAPPO and CAHFSA indicated that they have used Microsoft Teams for some virtual meetings. NEPPO said they had tried Webex but found Zoom to be more user friendly. CAHFSA said they have also used GoToMeeting but has a preference for the Zoom platform. EPPO indicated that they have also used GoToMeeting and found it very stable and could be used widely but Zoom can also handle interpretation.
- [10] NAPPO also informed that their annual meeting in 2020 was canceled, and that the annual meeting in 2021 will be held virtually which will be challenging as the meeting involves industry groups. EPPO suggested using break-out groups to help facilitate the meeting.
- [11] The IPPC Secretariat informed the participants that webinars can also be held using Zoom and that CPM-15 (2021) will be held via Zoom.
- [12] The TC-RPPOs agreed:

<sup>3</sup> RPPOs web page on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/regional-plant-protection-organizations/>

<sup>4</sup> VM01\_03\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Sharing experiences and useful tools

- The virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams are useful tools to help continue our work during the pandemic.

#### **4.2 Contingency plans to work in emergency situations**

- [13] EPPO presented their document<sup>5</sup> which introduced some points on how to deal with emergency situations that arise and impact the meeting of the TC-RPPOs. The IPPC Secretariat presented a second paper<sup>6</sup> on this subject, adding that there are some legal issues based on the Convention which need to be considered. Notably, the Convention states that the IPPC Secretariat convenes the TC-RPPO meetings and as such some FAO rules need to be followed.
- [14] NEPPO agreed that advance planning was needed. It was noted that it took over six months to complete an FAO- host Country agreement. NAPPO recalled the reason for the suggestion that the TC-RPPOs should be held in Rome in 2020, immediately following CPM. This was to ensure that all RPPOs would be present to participate in the TC-RPPO meeting. By following the CPM, the TC-RPPO meeting could be shortened as the various IPPC updates would have just been received at the CPM. EPPO suggested that if not all RPPOs can participate, the TC-RPPO should be held virtually.
- [15] The IPPC Secretariat informed that if there are representatives of RPPOs that are not allowed entry into the host country, the meeting should be moved. This issue should be considered when the location of future TC-RPPO meeting is being considered. In this case, the meeting should be moved to another location (if there is time to get the FAO-Country agreement) or moved to FAO HQ (which has a standing agreement with Italy). The meeting could also be held virtually. The issue of ensuring that a quorum is reached was also discussed and it was agreed that RPPO representatives should commit to attending the TC-RPPO meetings well in advance. The IAPSC reiterated the importance of having face-to-face meeting at different locations each year.
- [16] The NAPPO representative stated that if not all RPPO representatives are able to attend a TC-RPPO meeting and there is not enough time to change the location, a virtual meeting should be considered.
- [17] CAHFSA suggested that the TC-RPPO consider an approach where RPPOs who are unable to attend a face-to-face meeting, join the meeting virtually. The IPPC Secretariat suggested that this option be included in the revised rules of procedure of the TC-RPPO.
- [18] The IPPC Secretariat suggested that RPPO representatives should try to ensure they set aside the financial resources to attend the annual TC-RPPO meeting. Some RPPO representatives suggested the TC-RPPO meeting should be held earlier in the year to ensure their allocated budget is still available.
- [19] The TC-RPPOs agreed:

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<sup>5</sup> VM01\_06\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Contingency\_Planning\_EPPO

<sup>6</sup> VM01\_05\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Contingency\_Planning

- RPPO representatives would confirm their ability and availability to attend the next TC-RPPO meeting six months prior to the meeting to help with planning and confirming a quorum was achievable, if not, the IPPC Secretariat would consult with the Chairperson to determine a way forward and this would be communicated to the RPPOs as soon as possible.
- If an emergency situation arose where the face-to-face meeting could not be held, the IPPC Secretariat would consult with the Chairperson and the TC-RPPOs meeting would be either moved to FAO HQ or held virtually, preferably with this decision being taken two months prior to the meeting, and would be communicated to the RPPOs as soon as possible.
- To ensure they have budgeted for the travel costs to attend the TC-RPPO meetings and ensure they schedule their attendance at the next TC-RPPOs meeting.

### 4.3 Update on the proposal for the International Day for Plant Health

[20] The IPPC Secretariat provided an update on the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)<sup>7</sup>, including over 600 events held in all regions, the issuing of 22 stamps and 3 commemorative coins, the nomination of two IYPH ambassadors and one champion, and the publication of 12 human-interest stories related to plant health. An IYPH newsletter is published regularly and promotes the photo contest and art and drawing competition, and provides regular updates on IYPH events. It was noted that there has been an increase in the volume of social media activities, videos and publications. Some of the IYPH legacy initiatives were highlighted such as the study on climate change impacts on plant health and the call for participation in the IYPH youth declaration.

[21] He also informed the participants that the FAO Council at its 165<sup>th</sup> session had endorsed a proposal for an International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), and that next steps would be the review of the proposal by the FAO Conference in July 2021, and the subsequent possible declaration of 12 May as IDPH by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2021. He noted that country support was needed both at the FAO Conference and at the United Nations General Assembly and he encouraged RPPOs to help get their members to support this initiative.

[22] The TC-RPPOs:

- *Noted* the progress with the IYPH and with the IDPH proposal.
- *Encouraged* RPPOs to help get their members to support for the approval and declaration of the International Day of Plant Health at both the FAO Conference (July 2021) and at the United Nations General Assembly (December 2021)

## 5. Any other business

### International Society for Pest Information

[23] NAPPO informed the TC-RPPOs that they had recently been contacted by the International Society for Pest Information (ISPI) to seek cooperation regarding the management of a database tool that contains data on pests and diseases. EPPO pointed out that CABI and EPPO have similar

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<sup>7</sup> VM01\_04\_TC-RPPO\_2020\_Dec\_Update\_proposal for IDPH

databases. NAPPO agreed to share additional information with the RPPOs and requested that this point be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

### **6. Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting**

- [24] The next meeting is planned for 29 January 2021. The meeting documents should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 8 January 2021.

### **7. Evaluation of the meeting process**

- [25] Meeting participants were reminded that an evaluation of the TC-RPPOs meeting would be sent out after the last session in February 2021.

### **8. Close of the Meeting**

- [26] The Chairperson thanked the participants. The IPPC Secretariat reminded participants that the meeting report would be circulated for their review. He thanked the participants, especially those who provide input into the papers. The meeting was closed.

**Annex 1: Agenda**

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		
1.1	Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat		LARSON
1.2	Welcome by the TC-RPPO Chairperson		GOLDSMITH
<b>2.</b>	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>		
2.1	Election of the Rapporteur		GOLDSMITH
2.2	Adoption of the Agenda	VM01_01_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec	GOLDSMITH
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative Matters</b>		
3.1	Documents list		LARSON
3.2	Participants list	VM01_02_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec	LARSON
<b>4.</b>	<b>List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics</b>		
4.1	Sharing experiences of RPPOs on interactions and useful tools	VM01_03_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec	RPPOs
4.2	Contingency plan to work in emergency situations	VM01_05_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec VM01_06_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec	LARSON
4.3	Update on the proposal for the International Day for Plant Health	VM01_04_TC-RPPO_2020_Dec	MONTUORI
<b>5.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International society for pest information</li> </ul>		BLOEM
<b>6.</b>	<b>Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting</b>		LARSON
	2021-01-29 (19:00 Rome time)		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Evaluation of the meeting process</b>		CZERWIEN
<b>8.</b>	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>		GOLDSMITH / LARSON