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## **REPORT**

# **32nd Technical Consultation among RPPOs (Virtual Meeting No 2)**

**Rome, Italy  
29 January 2021**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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

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

[1] The IPPC Secretariat welcomed the RPPO representatives to the meeting.

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

[2] Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH, Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), Chairperson of the TC-RPPO, welcomed all participants. She highlighted the importance of the work of the TC-RPPO and thanked the participants for their attendance.

## **2. Meeting arrangements**

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

[3] The TC-RPPOs elected Mr Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA from Comunidad Andina (CAN) as Rapporteur.

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

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

## **3. Administrative matters**

### **3.1 Documents list**

[5] The following documents were posted for this meeting:

- VM02\_01\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_Agenda
- VM02\_02\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_Global phytosanitary research coordination: next steps
- VM02\_03\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_Partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information
- VM02\_04\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_Brief reflection to link Plant Health and One health approach
- VM02\_05\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_CPM Bureau discussion on One health approach

### **3.2 Participants list**

[6] The following participants were in attendance:

RPPO representatives:

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH (CAHFSA) | - Mr Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA (CAN) |
| - Mr James PAZO (COSAVE)       | - Mr Nico M. HORN (EPPO)          |
| - Ms Stephanie BLOEM (NAPPO)   | - Mr Mekki CHOUIBANI (NEPPO)      |

IPPC Secretariat staff:

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| - Mr Brent LARSON | - Mr Arop DENG       |
| - Ms Sarah BRUNEL | - Mr Mirko MONTUORI  |
| - Mr Qingpo YANG  | - Ms Masumi YAMAMOTO |

[7] Mr Yubak Dhoj G. C. (APPPC), Mr. Jean Gérard MEZUI M'ELLA (IAPSC), Mr Efrain MEDINA (OIRSA) and Mr Visoni TIMOTE (PPPO) did not attend.

[8] Full contact details for the RPPOs can be found on the IPP<sup>1</sup>.

## 4. Strategic issues

### 4.1 How Plant Health is involved in One Health Approach

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat presented the paper<sup>2</sup> on the CPM Bureau discussion on this topic (September 2020 Bureau meeting). The paper included a document drafted by Ms Lois RANSOM, the former CPM Chairperson. The IPPC Secretariat highlighted that the Bureau concluded that the current evidence, priorities, and resources did not justify a more active involvement of the CPM in the One Health Approach at this time and did not give priority to this topic; and added that FAO is actively working on One Health at different levels and continually advocate for the IPPC Secretariat's involvement in this subject.
- [10] The representative of CAN presented his paper on this matter<sup>3</sup> and gave a presentation entitled: "Brief reflection to link Plant Health and One Health approach". He highlighted several aspects of the approach that could be considered relevant to plant health. He indicated that the approach is becoming more important in some countries, and plant health issues are also being considered in this approach. He also explained that there are challenges to prevent the spread of pests and preserve the environment and biodiversity while avoiding adverse effects on human health. He noted that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the 'farm-to-table' approach are examples of how plant health might contribute to the One Health Approach. He concluded that there is a need to reflect on how the phytosanitary community should contribute to One Health, possibly in the context of pest management, even for quarantine pests.
- [11] The representative of CAHFSA informed that their member NPPOs are aware of the push towards a One Health Approach, given, for example, that in the Caribbean a project was recently funded by the European Union on this matter; at the same time NPPOs have questions on how they should be involved in this issue.
- [12] The representative of EPPO stressed that 'plant health' in the context of One Health is broader in scope than phytosanitary issues, noting that most chemicals used in production are not needed for phytosanitary purposes. He explained that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is part of plant health but is not specifically relevant to phytosanitary purposes. He stated that phytosanitary activities come into play more indirectly in the 'plant health' element of One Health. He added that plant health and phytosanitary issues should not be interpreted as meaning the same thing. Lastly, he asked what kind of activities FAO and the IPPC Secretariat have been involved in related to this topic.
- [13] The IPPC Secretariat responded that the Secretariat had been invited to participate in FAO activities on One Health for a few years now, but discussions have not related much to phytosanitary issues. He agreed that phytosanitary activities may come into play more indirectly in One Health. He referred to work related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which ties into One Health, is not really related to phytosanitary issues. The Secretariat added that the IPPC community's involvement was not seen as a priority, given the limited resources available to them; however, noted that this was a higher priority in some countries, especially in the biosecurity context.
- [14] The representative of NEPPO informed that One Health was one of the issues discussed at the last ministerial meeting in the region. He noted that it is easy to find the linkage between One Health and animal and human health, but it is more difficult to establish that link for phytosanitary issues. He added that ISPM 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*) may be somewhat of an indirect link and concluded that this is an interesting topic that should be considered further in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> RPPOs web page on the IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/regional-plant-protection-organizations/>

<sup>2</sup> VM02\_05\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_CPM Bureau discussion on One health approach

<sup>3</sup> VM02\_04\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_ Brief reflection to link Plant Health and One health approach

- [15] The representative of NAPPO informed that she had contacted the Bureau member in the NAPPO region and the CPM Chair to understand the Bureau discussion better. She reported that the Bureau felt that the phytosanitary community should focus on the IPPC Strategic Framework (SF) 2020-2030, which should indirectly contribute to One Health. She also noted the concern that if the IPPC community engaged with this topic that it may dilute the effort to implement the SF. She also noted that the IPPC community focuses on a narrower definition of plant health instead of the broader plant health mandate of FAO and One Health. The representative of EPPO agreed that the IPPC community is small and stressed that the linkage with One Health was more indirect.
- [16] The representative of CAN indicated that the discussion's objective was to explore what the IPPC community might do and not do related to this topic rather than making suggestions.
- [17] The representative of COSAVE added that their steering committee would discuss the topic and that he would share the outcomes of the discussion at the next TC-RPPO meeting.
- [18] The Chairperson concluded that phytosanitary work may indirectly contribute to One Health, but the IPPC community would rather focus on current tasks.

#### **4.2 Global phytosanitary research coordination: next steps**

- [19] The IPPC Secretariat presented the paper<sup>4</sup> on the agenda item, which is one of the Development Agendas in the IPPC SF, as already discussed by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and CPM Bureau.
- [20] The representative of NAPPO pointed out that from her perspective, academia and researchers are not so well informed on phytosanitary issues. She also informed the group that researchers' view is sometimes quite different from that of phytosanitary experts or regulators. She reported an example of when researchers had a lack of understanding about ISPM15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*), which is the most implemented standard. A research group invited her to deliver a presentation on this standard at an event, but she found that there was a misunderstanding in the scope of the ISPM15 through their invitation. Therefore, she gave her presentation in order to improve the understanding of the standard rather than what they had initially asked her. She noted that the industry is well aware of phytosanitary issues and priorities, but researchers may not necessarily be, and highlighted the need to establish a close linkage with researchers to have the right underpinnings and objectives if they are to do research on behalf of phytosanitary authorities. The representative of NEPPO added that having a group with the mix of regulators and researchers is very useful.
- [21] The representative of EPPO reported that this topic has been discussed in the region for many years. He noted that it is very evident that research coordination is needed because resources are limited, but should be driven from the phytosanitary side (e.g. policy makers), which identifies phytosanitary issues that need to be solved, such as how to conduct surveys more effectively. He stressed that there is a need for interaction between NPPOs, RPPOs and research funders. He also informed about their long-standing example of Euphresco, which had made a lot of effort to include participants from other regions throughout the past seven years. He added that it should be considered whether one global network or various regional networks that collaborate should be established, and if regional networks are to be established, it will be necessary to involve the RPPOs.
- [22] The IPPC Secretariat noted that Euphresco is a functioning example and explained there are also successful examples of groups that liaise to address research issues at the global level, such as the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) and the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group (PMRG). The Secretariat mentioned that both groups have a mix of researchers and regulators and they work together

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<sup>4</sup> VM02\_02\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_ Global phytosanitary research coordination: next steps

informally. He asked the RPPOs to share other examples of research coordination that is happening at the regional level.

- [23] The representative of NAPPO explained that a group of researchers from Canada, USA and Mexico, which is called PROCINORTE, operates and collaborates with other organizations in North America, but there is no close collaboration with NAPPO, while the three NAPPO member governments participate in Euphresco projects. She highlighted the need to coordinate phytosanitary research activities at a regional level. She agreed that the IFQRG is an excellent example of bringing together researchers who want to publish a paper and regulators who need evidence and data on the problem to be solved.
- [24] The representative of CAHFSA informed that there is not yet regional research coordination in their region. She reported that she asked academia and research organizations for ideas on submissions for the IPPC call for topics but noted that the discrepancy between the objectives of phytosanitary agencies and those of research groups makes collaboration challenging.
- [25] The representative of EPPO added that this is why it is so important to have regulators together with research organizations. He suggested using the term “research network” rather than “coordination” as academia and research organizations may not prefer the term “coordination”. He added that issues that are of interest to most countries in the world (e.g. wood packaging) should be addressed at the global level, while issues that matter only to a smaller regional group of countries should be addressed at the regional level (e.g., issues related to certain pests or crops).
- [26] The representative of COSAVE informed the group that they have PROCISUR, which is integrated with state research entities from Latin American countries that investigate issues of agricultural interest. He added that it would be very important for phytosanitary research topics to be shared with the IPPC contracting parties to make the use of resources more efficient in the countries.
- [27] The representative of NAPPO commented that it may be a bit premature to establish a worldwide journal, at least for North America. The representative of EPPO agreed to it even for the European region. The representative of EPPO added that having a worldwide journal on open source, ensuring free access to developing countries, should be considered in the future.
- [28] The TC-RPPO:
- *Agreed* that an analysis of the existing international phytosanitary research structures and policies, and an assessment of the investments required for a new mechanism should be conducted in cooperation with IPPC stakeholders (2022).
  - *Agreed* that mechanisms for further collaboration between regulators and researchers should be explored and discussed (2022).
  - *Agreed* to request CPM to consider a policy regarding the voluntary global mechanism for phytosanitary research networks and a governance structure for the mechanism (2023).

### **4.3 Guidance for new heads of RPPOs to contribute to the IPPC mandate**

- [29] The representative of NAPPO prepared a presentation on this topic, working together with CAHFSA. However, she suggested that this agenda item should be deferred to the next meeting due to the absence of some newly appointed RPPO representatives at this meeting. The IPPC Secretariat suggested that the TC-RPPO Chairperson follow up on this issue with those RPPOs who were not represented in the meeting.
- [30] The TC-RPPO:
- *Agreed* to defer the agenda item “Guidance for new heads of RPPOs to contribute to the IPPC mandate” to the next TC-RPPO session.

#### 4.4 Partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information

- [31] The representative of NAPPO reminded the participants that this topic was discussed under “Any other business” at the last TC-RPPO meeting in December 2020. She presented the paper<sup>5</sup> on this topic and informed the group that the intention was to seek opinions from TC-RPPO members on how to move forward, also noting the request to the IPPC Secretariat to consider the linkage with Pest Outbreak Alert and Response System.
- [32] The representative of EPPO noted that the “Pest Information Wiki” database of the International Society for Pest Information (ISPI) covers a number of pests and content similar to existing phytosanitary databases, and asked for more information, such as what would be the objectives of the database, who would be target audience, how this database differs from other existing ones, what is meant by Wiki, and whether the data is validated. He indicated that there may be a need to receive more information before the TC-RPPO could consider their options and if they were interested in being involved.
- [33] The representative of NAPPO noted that despite the name “Wiki”, information present on the database is scientifically verified. She highlighted that it is not a phytosanitary focused database, but RPPOs could consider possible interactions to add pest information. She suggested that the TC-RPPO might invite representatives from the International Society for Pest Information to a future meeting for further discussion.
- [34] The IPPC Secretariat updated the participants on the National Reporting Obligations (NRO) work, which is a component of the IPPC Strategic Framework Development Agenda on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems. He explained that the IC decided to establish the IC Sub-group on NRO to deal with NRO issues, and that an RPPO representative would be invited to join the IC Sub-group once the IC approves the Terms of Reference, which will go out for consultation in July 2021.
- [35] The IPPC Secretariat further highlighted the need for a critical analysis and comparison of the ISPI to other databases in order to discuss potential collaboration, and suggested that some of the analysis could be carried out by the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems.
- [36] The TC-RPPO:
- *Agreed* to continue to discuss the potential partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information.
  - *Agreed to* request the IPPC Secretariat to invite a representative from the International Society for Pest Information to the next TC-RPPO meeting session.

#### 5. Any other business

##### EPPO Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Platform

- [37] The representative of EPPO reminded members of the discussion on EPPO PRA platform at the 31<sup>st</sup> TC-RPPO (2019)<sup>6</sup> and noted that the NPPOs, that are not from EPPO member countries had been invited to take part in the EPPO PRA platform and indeed some non EPPO NPPOs had taken part in the EPPO PRA platform. He wanted to make sure that all RPPOs supported their members joining their platform if they wished as he saw this as a good opportunity for collaboration.
- [38] The TC-RPPO:

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<sup>5</sup> VM02\_03\_TC-RPPO\_2021\_Jan\_Partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information

<sup>6</sup> 2019 Report of the 31th Technical Consultation among RPPOs available at:  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88008/>



- *Supported* NPPOs from the non-EPPO region joining the EPPO PRA platform if they wished.

### CPM-15

- [39] The IPPC Secretariat informed the TC-RPPO that the CPM Bureau has invited the Chairpersons of both the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> TC-RPPO to prepare a five-minute video presentation, which will be broadcast at the CPM-15 (2021) virtual meeting in addition to a CPM paper. The CPM paper on the 31<sup>st</sup> TC-RPPO is already posted<sup>7</sup>, and it is expected that the paper on the 32<sup>nd</sup> TC-RPPO should be posted soon after the next TC-RPPO session in February is conducted.
- [40] Lastly, the IPPC Secretariat reminded the RPPOs about the need to register to participate in the CPM-15 virtual sessions. He informed that the RPPO representatives are officially invited to the CPM-15 as CPM observers by the FAO Director-General.
- [41] The IPPC Secretariat also informed about the CPM-15 virtual sessions scheduled as follows:

Dates: 16 March, 18 March, and 1 April 2021

Time: daily from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (CET) and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm (CET)

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

- [42] The next meeting is scheduled for 26 February 2021. The participants were informed that the Chairperson had invited a representative from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to attend the next meeting.

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

- [43] An evaluation of the TC-RPPOs meeting would be sent out after the last session in February 2021.

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

- [44] The Chairperson thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

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<sup>7</sup> CPM 15 (2021) paper on 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the TC-RPPO (CPM2021/10):  
<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89284/>

**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	VM02_01_TC-RPPO_2021_Jan	GOLDSMITH
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative Matters</b>		
3.1	Documents list	<a href="#">Link<sup>8</sup></a>	LARSON
3.2	Participants list	<a href="#">Link<sup>9</sup></a>	LARSON
<b>4.</b>	<b>Strategic issues</b>		
4.1	How Plant Health is involved in One Health Approach	VM02_04_TC-RPPO_2021_Jan VM02_05_TC-RPPO_2021_Jan	MONTOYA LARSON
4.2	Global phytosanitary research coordination: next steps	VM02_02_TC-RPPO_2021_Jan	DENG/ MONTUORI
4.3	Guidance for new heads of RPPOs to contribute to the IPPC mandate		BLOEM/ GOLDSMITH
4.4	Partnership/collaboration with the International Society for Pest Information	VM02_03_TC-RPPO_2021_Jan	BLOEM
<b>5.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>		GOLDSMITH / LARSON
<b>6.</b>	<b>Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting</b> 26 February 2021 (13:00 Rome time)		LARSON
<b>7.</b>	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>		GOLDSMITH / LARSON

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area/rppo/2021-01-tc-rppo/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area-publications/89069/>